

The CSB/SJU Dynamos

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

The name of the team/club concerning this constitution is the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University Dynamic Speech and Debate Team & Club.

Section 2: Purpose/Mission

The CSB/SJU Dynamos' mission is to bring the excellent Art of Debate and Speech to the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. As distinguished Dynamos, students can gain many valuable skills, such as public speaking, communication, strategic planning and critical analysis. Not only will students obtain aptitude in these areas, but the CSB/SJU Dynamos also provides an open forum for new ideas and thoughts on world and national politics, literature, global issues, and many other topics.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility for Membership

The CSB/SJU Dynamos is open to any and all currently enrolled CSB/SJU students. Non-students, such as faculty, staff or alumni are not allowed to be participating members, but they can be supportive affiliates.

To become an official member of the CSB/SJU Dynamos, prospective members must be willing to attend seventy-five percent (75%) of all meetings. Prospective team members will compete internally, to display their skills. The Head Captain and Co-Captains, have the right to decide at any time on the internal competition's criteria, be it impromptu or scheduled.

Section 2: Voting Member Criteria:

All members of the CSB/SJU Dynamic Speech and Debate Team and Club will have the right to vote in voting procedures. Members can elect team captains and other officers, when vacant. Affiliate members are the faculty and staff at CSB/SJU who are not allowed to vote on issues, but are allowed to give advice and help as deemed necessary.

Section 3: Removal of Members

The removal of a team or club member will be a democratic process, where it is put to a vote and the simple majority decides the outcome. The team members, the individual or individuals in question, along with faculty and staff may give advice and argue their cause before the club/team. If removed, the individual or individuals in question may have two weeks after their removal to prepare and present their case to the CSB/SJU Dynamos. Members can be removed for the following reasons:

1. Poor attendance at tournaments and meetings.
2. Poor behavior at tournaments and meetings.
3. Poor effort in preparation for tournaments.
4. Disrespectful behavior towards all races, ethnicities, sexual identities/orientations, or religious/non-religious affiliations.

Article III: Officers

Section 1: Officer Qualifications

The officers of the CSB/SJU Dynamos will be hereby referred to as Captains, Treasurer, Secretary and Sargent At Arms.

The Captains must be committed members who have extensive experience in debating and public-speaking, before their elected position begins (the exceptions ofcourse being the first year of the CSB/SJU Dynamos and in the case of an inactive team the previous year, in which cases anyone may be made captain who has the necessary qualifications). The Secretary, Treasurer and Sargent At Arms can be members who simply desire the position and is elected (the exceptions of course being the first year of the CSB/SJU Dynamos and in the case of an inactive team the previous year, in which cases anyone may be made a Secretary, Treasurer and Sargent At Arms with the necessary qualifications).

Section 2: Elected Captain(s)

There will be no positions other than Head Captain, Co-Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and Sargent At Arms. There can be no more than 1 Head Captain and 3 Co-Captains at any one time.

Section 3: Duties of Captains

It is the Head Captain's and the Co-Captains' responsibility to organize the running of the CSB/SJU Dynamic Speech and Debate Team & Club.

Specific Duties of the Head Captain, Co-Captains, Secretary, Treasurer and Sargent At Arms:

Head Captain:

- Be the main leader and voice of the team.
- Be actively involved in coaching other teammates.
- Organize first draft of the schedule for the season and off-season.
- Contact other schools for information and registration for tournaments.
- Contact appropriate individuals and organizations for fundraising.
- Hold the tie-breaking vote amongst the co-captains and the team.
- Call emergency team or captains meetings.
- Hold weekly discussions with the advisor of the team.
- Leader at team meetings.

Co-Captains:

- Be actively involved in coaching other teammates.
- Attend all captains meetings to discuss scheduling and other issues that arise during the season.
- Help the Head Captain with anything that needs to be done from the list above. Depending on the amount of work of the Head Captain, work will be distributed appropriately.

Secretary:

- Take and distribute minutes of all club meetings.
- Record keeper of current and past members, files and minutes.
- Notify members of meetings.

Treasurer:

- Keep all financial records
- Submit monthly audit statements to CFB contact
- Notify the CSB/SJU Dynamos of financial issues
- Prepares budget/allocation requests.

Sargent At Arms:

- Help maintain order within meetings.
- Assist officers when hosting events.
- Be an enforcer of the constitution in all meetings, events or setting, even if Captains are present and especially when they are not.

In the event that there are no co-captains, the Head Captain will perform all of the duties of the other co-captain positions.

Section 4: Vacancy of Office

If in the event a vacancy of a captain position should occur, the co-captain(s) will assume those duties until a special election is held. Please refer to the special election section of Article IV.

Section 5: Removal of Captains and other Officers

Concerning the removal of captains, it will be up to the discretion of the entire CSB/SJU Dynamos member body to decide. If a voting is held, resulting in the head captain being removed and a Co-Captain is elected as the new Captain, then members will also be called on to elect that previous Co-Captain's, (now Captain), successor. Additionally, the entire member body have the right to remove individuals from the Secretary, Treasurer or Sargent At Arms position.

The CSB/SJU Dynamos will then have an open forum to decide the captains' or officers' status. Everyone who wishes to speak will be given the opportunity to have the platform to defend or oppose the captain. Any member may call for the removal of a Captain, Co-Captain, Secretary, Treasurer or Sargent At Arms. Upon this call, the forum will commence, allowing each speaker a maximum of 5 minutes to speak for or against the person in question. Following this forum, the member body will vote on the person's future in the organization. A simple majority will decide his or her fate.

Section 6: Appeal of Removal of Captain

After a vote has been taken deciding a captain's fate and the vote dismisses the captain, there will be an appeal process 2 weeks after the vote has been taken. The Captain can state his or her case to the rest of the captains and student body for reinstatement. Another vote will then be stated. A captain may only make one appeal to be reinstated as an officer of the CSB/SJU Dynamic Speech and Debate Team & Club.

Article IV: Elections***Section 1: Nomination Process***

When a captain or officer position has been opened, there will be an emergency team meeting to elect a new captain or officer. Anyone who is a member on the team or part of the club can nominate a person or themselves in accordance with captain requirements. Anyone who is a member can nominate a person or themselves in accordance with the Secretary, Treasurer or Sargent At Arms requirements. During the meeting, their will be a list of possible nominations, each team member will have the chance to rally support

for themselves or their nominee. Each person is given a maximum of three minutes to speak. In the event a co-captain wishes to take the position of Head Captain, they may do so. Another election needs to occur in order to fill their vacant position in the event they win. Also, if no one is nominated for any of the vacant positions, that is fine. There needs to be, however, a Head Captain at all times.

Section 2: Election

After each member has concluded their remarks on the nominee, then an election will take place. The captain, co-captains and other officers will be chosen by a simple majority. The Captain and Co-Captains can serve in succession until they are no longer an officially enrolled student at CSB or SJU or have been removed. Elections for the next year's captains will be held during the last week in March, if there is a vacancy.

Section 3: Special Elections

Special elections due to the removal of an officer will follow the same procedures as Section 1 and Section 2.

Article V: Advisor

Section 1: Selection

The CSB/SJU Dynamos will choose an advisor based on the Faculty member's motivation and passion for the organization and knowledge within the area of Public Speaking and the Art of Debate.

Section 2: Duties

The advisor will follow all the expectations that CSB/SJU requires from all club/organization advisors, as listed in the Advisor Contract. In addition to the expectations listed, the advisor should also:

- Occasionally meet with Captain/Co-Captains before or after meetings.
- Promote the team's activities to other Faculty/Staff.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: Regular Meeting/Club Activities

The Team, Captains, and the advisor will meet based on the changing schedule and required competition preparations that will be established at the beginning of the year by the captains. Club meetings will be held at times announced by Captains and officers, with the intent to meet every week or every other week.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Any special meetings held as a result of officer vacancy will be in accordance with Article IV Section 1 and 2. Special meetings can also be called for last minute competition preparation or medical emergency instances, in which a speaker or speakers may need to be replaced. Notifications will be done through email or phone calls for rapid response, by captains and officers.

Section 3: Parliamentary Authority

Meetings will be purely democratic in accordance with the Constitution. Events and activities within the club will vary, from table topics to impromptu speeches/debates, vocal exercises, peer editing and mentorship and ofcourse team preparation for internal, state or country wide competitions.

Section 4: Quorum

At least two thirds (2/3) of the club membership must be present for official club business to occur. At least three quarters (3/4) of the CSB/SJU Dynamos must be present to vote in a new captain. At least 2/3 of the CSB/SJU Dynamos must be present to vote in a Secretary, Treasurer or Sargent At Arms.

Article VII: Finances

Section 1: Co-Funding Board

The CSB/SJU Dynamos will apply for CFB monies, and if we are allocated resources, the CSB/SJU Dynamos will follow all CFB and institutional regulations and keep all club funds in on-campus accounts.

Section 2: Honorariums

Captains, officers or members will not receive an honorarium or stipend from the organization.

Section 3: Dues

Membership in the CSB/SJU Dynamos is free and requires no dues. In instances when the Team competes state or country wide and requires transportation or travel accommodations, members will be required to assist with raising at least 40% of fees, to match the Co-Funding Board's 60%.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1: Ratification

If there is a proposed constitutional amendment, procedures will follow directly with the procedures of elections (see Article IV).

Section 2: Submittal to Department of Student Activities and Joint Club Board

Any changes made to this constitution will be submitted to the Department of Student Activities and the JCB.

Article IX:

The CSB/SJU Dynamos agrees that its activities, mission statement and goals are consistent with the Benedictine values.

Article X:

The CSB/SJU Dynamic Speech and Debate Team & Club admits students without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, age, sexual orientation or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and other activities, generally accorded or made available to members of the organization.

Article XI:

The CSB/SJU Dynamic Speech and Debate Team & Club considers hazing to be a degrading and destructive activity which is consistent with the standards of this student organization. The CSB/SJU Dynamic Speech and Debate Team & Club recognizes the dignity of every person and opposes all forms of hazing.

Date of recognition/revision: October 19th, 2021.